



**Proposed five-way police merger garners mixed reaction in York County 09/18/2007**

*Tim Lambert*

(York) -- A new report recommends that five police departments in York County should explore consolidating forces. But, one police chief says a number of questions have to be answered first. The discussion centers on taking police forces in York city and the surrounding townships of Spring Garden, Springettsbury, West Manchester and York and forming a regional Metro-York police department. West Manchester Police Chief Arthur Smith says issues like maintaining proper patrol coverage, funding and officers' pension plans need to be addressed.

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"How does this benefit this area or York County as a whole as opposed to just blanket statements, 'It's good because...?' I think what has to happen is, these answers have to be found so that you can make a case specific to the proposition that a metropolitan York police department would be a good thing to do," Smith says.

[smith4.mp3](#)

"You have to look at this thing and decide what are the benefits and what are not the benefits for what you're proposing here. To just take a blanket statement and say, 'Regionalization is good' – I guess in some areas, where it works and it's successful, it is. But then there are areas where, for one reason or another, a municipality has decided to break from a regional police concept," Smith says.

Smith adds he can't say whether he's for or against the idea at this point because so many questions remain unanswered. The recommendation for the merger was made by the group Metro-York.